

Competitive Request for Initial Proposals Announcement for EPA New England FY05 TMDL Funds

OVERVIEW

EPA New England, Office of Ecosystem Protection is announcing the continuation of total maximum daily load (TMDL) development assistance to the New England States by issuing a call for initial proposals. In this initial announcement, EPA plans to select through a competitive process several proposals to support the development of TMDLs for impaired waterbodies throughout the region. This notice sets forth the process that will be used for selecting the proposals for which respondents will be invited to submit final assistance agreement applications under CFDA 66.436. The deadline for EPA receipt of initial proposals in electronic form is **January 7, 2005**.

FULL TEXT ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity

Under the authority of the Clean Water Act, funding will be provided to support State development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired (Sec. 303(d)-listed) waterbodies throughout New England. Successful projects will include those that provide:

- names of the specific waterbodies of interest;
- dates by which the State intends to submit a draft TMDL(s) to EPA for review.

See Section IV for more details on submissions.

II. Award

EPA New England will consider initial proposals ranging from \$5,000 to \$80,000. States are encouraged to submit one proposal (see Sec. IV), which can include several projects as separate tasks, presented:

- in order of funding priority,
- with time-dependency noted (especially for 2005 fieldwork),
- with preferred funding mechanism identified (state grant or EPA contract).

Timing of the selection decision is dependent on Congressional approval of a final federal budget. Our goal is to select proposals as early as possible in 2005. Because of uncertain timing of awards, States are encouraged to submit proposals under this competition to fund 2006 field work.

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a grant application under Sec.104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. As an alternative to a state grant, States may request that EPA arrange for contractor assistance to be provided through EPA's contracting mechanisms. Proposals for supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with proposals for new projects.

III. Eligibility

Entities that are eligible to apply include the environmental agencies in the six New England States (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) responsible for TMDL development, regional interstate organizations responsible for coordination of water and air pollution control issues in this region (NEIWEPC and NESCAUM), and non-profit organizations that provide TMDL-related technical assistance to state environmental agencies (ACWF). There is no match or cost-sharing requirement.

IV. Application and Submission

The submission must use the following format for a 1-2 page initial proposal, and must include the information outlined below in the sample format.

NOTE: If several tasks are involved (section (b) under Project Description), and are split between two of the listed funding mechanisms, please submit one form for grant-funded tasks, and one form for EPA-contract-funded tasks.)

Project Title	
Funding Amount	(Total amount of federal funding requested.)
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. General summary statement of project goal. b. <i>In order of funding priority</i>, task-by-task project descriptions including cost per task and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who (contractor or state staff) does - What (field assessments, equipment purchase, modeling assistance, TMDL development, etc.), - Where (specific 303(d)-listed waterbodies involved), - When (indicate <i>time-dependent</i> work, this field season or next), - Why (build TMDL development capacity, site-specific assistance), and - How (methods and/or approaches that are transferable to other states). c. Justification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State how this project will increase the state's ability to produce TMDLs (new or continuing effort). - How many TMDLs may result from this project. d. Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QAPP if the project involves sampling or data collection. - Brief final status report at end of project period. - Estimated date for draft TMDL submission (with commitment within next State/EPA performance partnership agreement (PPA)).
Funding Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New cooperative agreement, or amendment to existing agreement (if latter, please specify federal identifier), or b. EPA contract for technical support.
State TMDL Program Contact	Name, agency, telephone, e-mail address.

Under the project description, applicants are encouraged to provide a general project description (1-2 sentences) followed by a prioritized list (most critical first) of individually costed tasks. Because ultimate funding levels are currently unknown, reductions in proposal funding may be necessary.

DATES: The deadline for EPA receipt of initial proposals in electronic form is **January 7, 2005**. Later applications may be reviewed and considered only under some circumstances, including funding delays and changing priorities.

ADDRESSES: States should send electronic submissions to their respective EPA TMDL coordinator as follows, and please copy to ALL the remaining EPA TMDL contacts listed below.

CT	Mary Garren	Garren.Mary@epa.gov
ME	Jennie Bridge	Bridge.Jennie@epa.gov
MA	Michael Hill	Hill.Michael@epa.gov
NH & Interstates	Al Basile	Basile.Alfred@epa.gov
RI	Dave Turin	Turin.David@epa.gov
VT	Eric Perkins	Perkins.Eric@epa.gov
	Steve Winnett	Winnett.Steven@epa.gov
	Steve Silva	Silva.Stephen@epa.gov

After EPA notification of its intent to make awards, and prior to award of funds, successful applicants must submit grant agreements in accordance with 40 CFR Part 31 (state and local governments), or request that EPA pursue technical assistance under EPA's contracting mechanisms. EPA New England's goal is to have approved grants or contracts in place in time for the FY05 water quality assessment field season.

V. Application Review

Evaluation criteria:

1. Proposal addresses all submission requirements outlined in Section IV.
2. Project will result in or assist in the development of approvable TMDL(s) within a reasonable timeframe.
3. Project is likely to increase states' capacities to develop and submit approvable TMDLs to EPA.
4. Applicant's past performance for TMDL development and submission.

Review and Selection Process: An EPA New England group review process will select successful proposals. The goal of the process is to select a package of projects which will have the best chance to strengthen state TMDL programs and to increase TMDL production from the New England States. Any funding restrictions are in accordance with 40 CFR Part 31 (states and local governments).

VI. Award Administration

Following the review and selection process, successful applicants will receive an invitation by e-mail to submit an approvable cooperative agreement application (hard copy) for funding under CWA Sec. 104(b)(3) with administrative, national policy, and reporting requirements in accordance with 30 CFR Part 31. Applicants will also have the option of requesting EPA to pursue technical assistance under EPA's contracting mechanisms. In either case, successful applicants will be required to commit to estimated date(s) for submission of draft TMDL(s) in the next annual PPA workplan.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notice by e-mail or telephone.

VII. Agency Contact

Programmatic contacts for answering questions or helping with problems while the initial proposal funding opportunity is open are as follows:

CT	Mary Garren	617-918-1322	Garren.Mary@epa.gov
ME	Jennie Bridge	617-918-1685	Bridge.Jennie@epa.gov
MA	Michael Hill	617-918-1398	Hill.Michael@epa.gov
NH & Interstates	Al Basile	617-918-1599	Basile.Alfred@epa.gov
RI	Dave Turin	617-918-1598	Turin.David@epa.gov
VT	Eric Perkins	617-918-1602	Perkins.Eric@epa.gov
	Steve Winnett	617-918-1687	Winnett.Steven@epa.gov

If your specified contact is unexpectedly absent during a critical period, then contact any of the above-listed contacts for assistance.